

I claim:

1. An apparatus for establishing a debit account via a point of sale transaction; comprising:
 - (a) a transaction terminal, said terminal including input means, display means, and processing means;
 - (b) printing means operatively coupled to said transaction terminal;
 - (c) communications means integral to said transaction terminal;
 - (d) a secure host server in communication with said transaction terminal; and
 - (e) said transaction terminal further including an operating program for performing a series of steps including: initiating said point of sale transaction to accept funds from a customer to be deposited into a debit account; accepting an input value representing funds to be deposited into said debit account; accessing said secure host server via said communications means; transmitting said input value to said secure host server; receiving a debit account number unique to said transaction from said secure host server; receiving a unique personal identifier number (PIN) corresponding to said debit account number from said secure host server, and providing said debit account number and PIN in readable format to said customer.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said secure host server is operatively coupled to a processing means; said processing means including an operating program performing the steps of: creating a debit account specific to said transaction, assigning a unique debit account number with to said debit account; storing an electronic representation of currency equivalent to the input value into said debit account; and associating a personal identification number (PIN)

with said debit account number.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a database for storing said debit account number and PIN number, said database further including account balance information associated with said debit account number,

wherein said funds can be withdrawn from said debit account by a customer using said debit account number and said PIN.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said debit account is indexed in said database by said debit account number and PIN.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said printing means generates a printed receipt specific to said transaction, said printed receipt including said debit account number and said PIN number.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said input means comprises an alphanumeric keyboard.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said input means comprises an alphanumeric keyboard.

8. An apparatus for establishing a debit account via a point of sale transaction; comprising:
(a) a transaction terminal, said terminal including input means, display means, and processing means;

- (b) printing means operatively coupled to said transaction terminal;
- (c) communications means integral to said transaction terminal;
- (d) a secure host server in communication with said transaction terminal;
- (e) said transaction terminal further adapted to include an operating program for

performing a series of steps including: initiating said point of sale transaction to accept funds from a customer to be deposited into a debit account; accepting an input value representing funds to be deposited into said debit account; accessing said secure host server via said communications means; transmitting said input value to said secure host server; receiving a debit account number unique to said transaction, and providing said debit account number to said customer in readable format.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said secure host server is operatively coupled to a processing means; said processing means including an operating program performing the steps of: creating a debit account specific to said transaction, assigning a unique debit account number to said debit account; and storing an electronic representation of currency equivalent to the input value into said debit account.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a database for storing said debit account number, said database further including account balance information associated with said debit account number, wherein said funds can be withdrawn from said debit account by a customer using said debit account number.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said debit account is indexed in said database by said debit account number.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said printing means generates a printed receipt specific to said transaction containing said debit account number.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a means to assign a customer-selected PIN to said debit account number during said transaction.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said means comprises a keypad operatively connected to said transaction terminal.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said means comprises a biometric scanning device.

16. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said database further includes said customer-selected PIN.

17. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said debit account is indexed in said database by said debit account number and customer-selected PIN.